

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

---

SYLVESTER THOMAS

Petitioner,

ORDER

v.

12-cv-143-bbc

DEBORAH MCCULLOCH,

Respondent.

---

Petitioner Sylvester Thomas, a patient who is civilly committed pursuant to Chapter 980 of the Wisconsin Statutes and residing at the Sand Ridge Secure Treatment Center in Mauston, Wisconsin, has filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254. I construe his petition to include a request for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*. However, I cannot determine whether petitioner is indigent for the purpose of filing a § 2254 petition until he submits a trust fund account statement for the six-month period immediately preceding the filing of his habeas corpus petition. *See Longbehn v. U.S.*, 169 F.3d 1082 (7th Cir. 1999).

Once petitioner submits his trust fund account statement, this court will calculate petitioner's average monthly deposits and his average monthly balances for the six-month period mentioned above. If 20% of the greater of these two figures is \$5 or more, he will not be eligible for indigent status and will have to prepay all of the \$5 filing fee. If 20% of the greater of these two figures is less than \$5, he will be required to prepay whatever portion less than \$5 has been calculated.

Now that petitioner is aware of the formula this court uses in determining whether a prisoner is indigent for the purpose of paying a \$5 filing fee, he may be able to figure easily whether he qualifies. If he knows that he will not qualify for indigent status, he may elect to submit a check or money order made payable to the clerk of court in the amount of \$5 in lieu

of the six-month statement requested above. In any event, petitioner should act quickly. If, by March 23, 2012 petitioner does not submit either the \$5 payment or a trust fund account statement for the last six months, his request for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* will be denied and this action will be closed.

Entered this 29<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2012.

BY THE COURT:

/s/

STEPHEN L. CROCKER  
Magistrate Judge